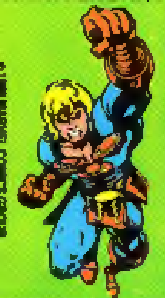
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#8 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

THE ETERNALS

PARTY CRASHERS!

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8
MAY

pollard

HE IS CALLED ARISHEM... A CELESTIAL OF THE FOURTH HOST.

HIS HOME IS THE UNIVERSE. HIS ORIGIN UNKNOWN. AND AS WE MIGHT STROLL ALONG A TREASURED BROOK OR CLIMB A LONG-REMEMBERED HILL-SIDE, HE TRAVELS THE GALAXIES.

THE STARS ARE HIS GARDEN, AND HE TENDS THEM WELL.

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HE AND HIS FELLOW CELESTIALS--'SPACE GODS' TO SOME--HAVE LABORED LONG AND CAREFULLY, FOSTERING THE SHOOT OF LIFE AND ITS FLOWER CONSCIOUSNESS ON A BILLION BILLION WORLDS.

ONE PLANET WAS CALLED BY ITS INHABITANTS THE EARTH--AND THERE HIS FELLOWS COAXED TWO OFFSHOOTS OF THE DOMINANT SPECIES INTO LIFE: SERENE, IMMORTAL ETERNALS-- AND ANGRY, GENETICALLY UNSTABLE DEVIANTS. A TWINKLING OF AN EYE AGO, HE AND HIS FOURTH HOST VISITED THE SPHERE TO JUDGE WHETHER THE LIFE HAD TURNED MALIGNANT AND HAD TO BE DESTROYED, OR WHETHER IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GROW.

THEY HAD OBSERVED-- AND DETERMINED THAT THIS PLANET COULD CONTINUE TO EXIST--FOR NOW. MOST OF THE CELESTIALS THEN WENT ON TO OTHER, STRANGER AFFAIRS.

ON EARTH, THE DEVIANTS AND ETERNALS, THOUGH FEW IN NUMBER, ARE ENGAGED IN A WAR HUMANITY DOES NOT SUSPECT. THE DEVIANTS STRIVE TO DOMINATE THE PLANET, AND THE ETERNALS STRIVE TO KEEP THEIR ANCIENT ENEMY IN CHECK.

AND ARISHEM, AWARE OF ALL THAT OCCURS ON EARTH, TURNS TO THAT TINY BLUE-GREEN PINPRICK-- FOR SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO THE SLIM SHOOT OF LIFE THERE.

SOMETHING NEW.

DESPITE THE DIRE STATE OF AFFAIRS, ONE ETERNAL -- SERSI, HAS CHOSEN TO THROW A PARTY IN HER FABULOUS MANHATTAN APARTMENT.

THROUGH THE CENTURIES, EVEN DURING THE MOST GRIM OF TIMES, THIS BEWITCHING ETERNAL HAS PLAYED AT THE GOOD LIFE WITH A SPIRIT MATCHED BY FEW IN HISTORY. HER PARTIES ARE LEGENDARY AMONG HER RACE.

AND JUST IN TIME! SET THE DISHES ON THE TABLE THERE! IT ALL SMELLS *WONDERFUL!*

CONSIDERING THE DREADFUL CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND, THIS MAY SEEM FRIVOLOUS TO SOME, BUT THIS IS SERSI'S LIFESTYLE... AND SHE APOLOGIZES TO NO ONE.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS

IN WHEN TITANS PARTY!



THANK YOU, MISS SERSI! YOU'LL FIND WE OUTDID OURSELVES THIS TIME!



EASY WITH THAT SPEAKER, JOE!

PETER B. GILLIS STORY
SAL BUSCEMA ART
RICK PARKER LETTERING
GEORGE ROUSSOS COLORING
RALPH MACCHIO EDITING
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

ON EARTH, IN THE CITY CALLED NEW YORK...
I'M SICK OF RUNNING, KRO! WHY CAN'T WE STAND AND FIGHT?
IT'S A FIGHT WE'D LOSE, THENA!
THE DEVIANTS HAVE KILLED AND ENSLAVED ETERNALS BEFORE THIS -- AND NOT TOO LONG AGO!*
* SEE IRON MAN ANNUAL #7. -- R.M.

AND THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING THE POWERS OF MY OWN PEOPLE -- YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND BESIDES, IT'S VITAL THAT WE REMAIN FREE!
AFTER WHAT WE SAW IN THE FLAME PITS OF LEMURIA, WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PRIESTS ARE UP TO!

"THE MOST CURSED OFFSPRING OF OUR CURSED RACE -- SUPPOSEDLY CONSIGNED TO THE FIRE TO KEEP OUR UNSTABLE GENETICS FROM DRIFTING TOO FAR -- WERE **NOT** BEING KILLED, BUT TAKEN SOMEWHERE BELOW!"

"AND WHAT THE PRIESTLORD GHAUR SAID TO US WHEN HE CAPTURED US STILL ECHOES IN MY BONES:"
IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO CHALLENGE THE SPACE GODS THEMSELVES -- UNLESS THE SPACE GODS CAN BE **REPLACED**---!

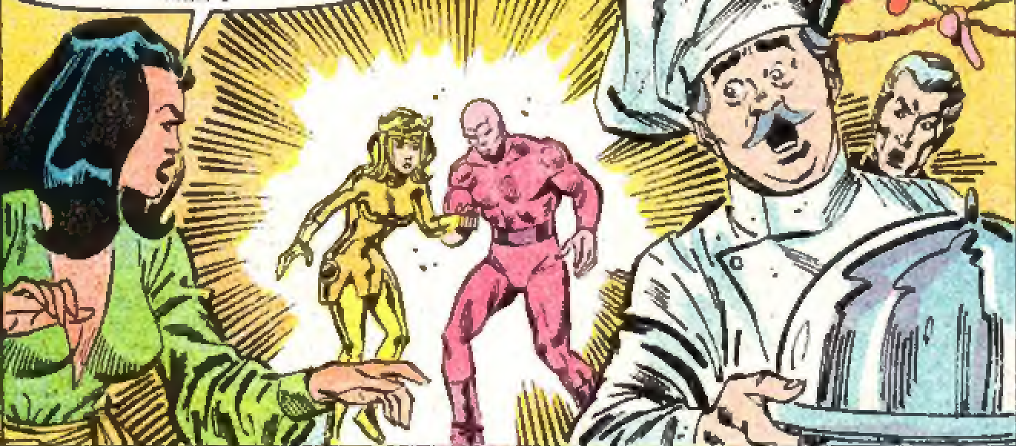
"IT WAS ONLY THE ARRIVAL OF IKARIS AND THE OTHER ETERNALS SENT ON YOUR CAPTURE THAT ENABLED US TO TELEPORT AWAY FROM THAT TRAP."
"NOW, THE TWO SETS OF PURSUERS MIGHT NOT WORK SO NEATLY AT CROSS-PURPOSES!"

AND THE ETERNALS -- MY FRIENDS, MY BLOOD -- THINK THAT I'M A TRAITOR, THAT I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ONE OF THE ENEMY!
AND THEY'RE RIGHT-- THEY'RE RIGHT--!

YES -- EXCEPT I'M NOT THEIR ENEMY, NOT NOW! WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE **WHOLE** EARTH, NOT JUST ONE OF ITS THREE RACES! AND WE MUST FIGHT -- IF NEED BE -- ALONE!
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WE CAN'T JUST SCURRY AROUND FOREVER!

AGREED. WE NEED SOME PLACE TO HIDE, BUT THERE'S NO ONE ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET WHO WOULD OPEN THEIR DOORS TO US.
THERE MAY-- THERE JUST MAY BE ONE PERSON--

--ONE PERSON WHO MIGHT BE MAD ENOUGH TO DO SO! AND I'M TELEPORTING US THERE NOW!


I'M COUNTING ON IT, EMILIO! WE'LL HAVE SOME SPECIAL GUESTS TONIGHT, AND I-- WHAT?


OH SERSI, PLEASE HELP US-- WE'VE GOT NOWHERE TO RUN-- PLEASE HIDE US!
KRO'S PEOPLE THINK HE'S A TRAITOR TO THE DEVIANTS-- AND IKARIS THINKS I'M A TRAITOR TO THE ETERNALS!
AND ARE YOU?

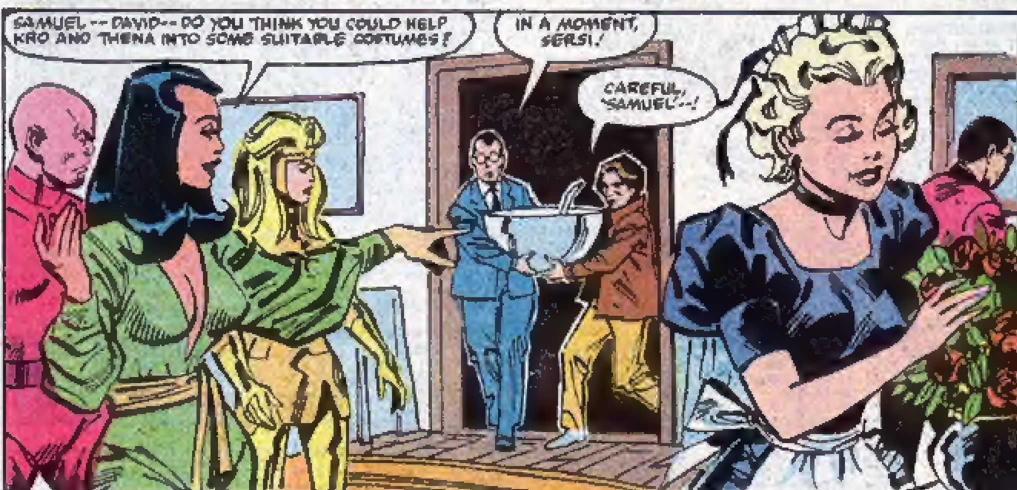

THINK, THENA-- THE HAIRY-CHESTS OF BOTH RACES, RUNNING AT EACH OTHER WITH CLUBS OUT, EAGER TO BASH SKULLS AND SEE BLOOD-- YOU TRY TO HOLD THEM BACK--
--AND THEN YOU RUN INTO THE ARMS OF THE ENEMY, TRAILING CLOUDS OF PASSION AND LOVE! WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?
YOU'RE RIGHT, SERSI.


THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN JUST THE OLD WAR BETWEEN DEVIANTS AND ETERNALS, SERSI-- SOMETHING UNTHINKABLE IS GOING ON IN MY-- IN THE REALM OF THE DEVIANTS, THAT COULD SPELL DOOM FOR ALL OF US! FOR THE WORLD'S SAKE, YOU MUST HELP US!
THE 'WORLD' HAS A WAY OF GOING ON, MY LORD KRO, NO MATTER WHAT WE DO.


SERSI-- I KNOW WE HAVEN'T ALWAYS GOTTEN ALONG-- I'VE ABUSED YOU AT TIMES-- BUT WE CAN'T TURN TO ANYONE ELSE! PLEASE, SERSI-- IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE--!
LOVE?

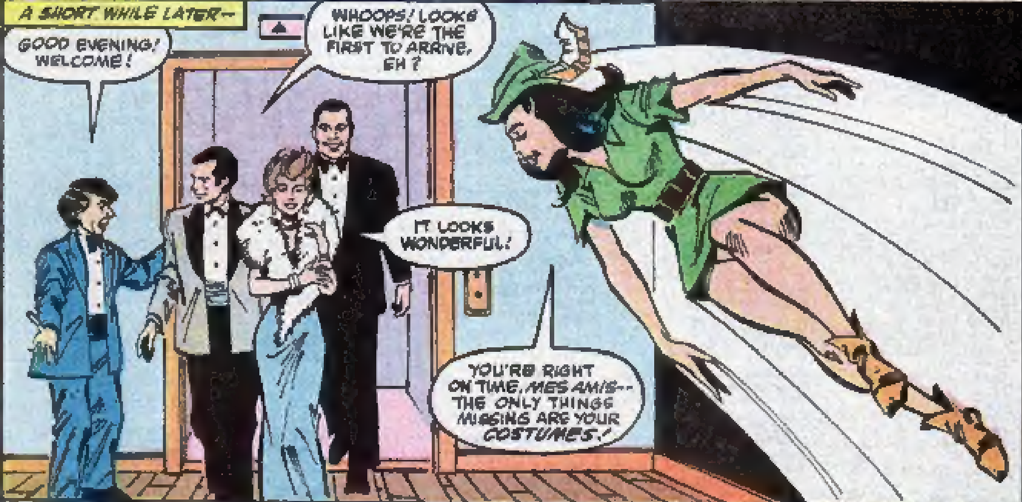

THENA, I'D BEEN WONDERING WHEN YOU'D GET AROUND TO ADMITTING THAT YOU LOVE KRO! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IT FOR CENTURIES!


MIND YOU, THE SCOWL HE SEEMS TO HAVE GLUED TO HIS FACE DOES HIM ABSOLUTELY NO JUSTICE, AND HE DANCES LIKE A GORILLA-- BUT YOU COULD HAVE DONE MUCH WORSE.
THE LADY SERSI IS TOO KIND

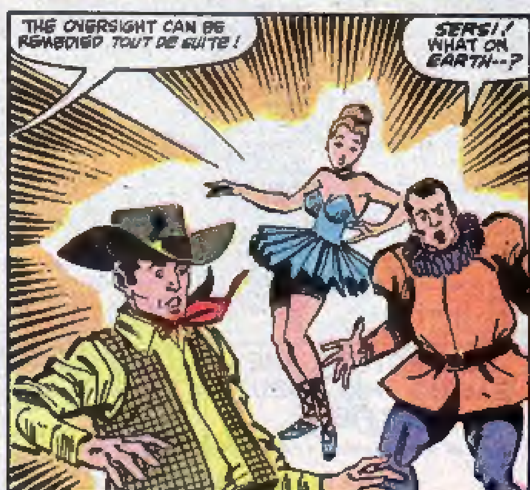

SAMUEL -- DAVID -- DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP KRO AND THENA INTO SOME SUITABLE COSTUMES!
IN A MOMENT, SERSI!
CAREFUL, SAMUEL--!


COSTUMES? WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT, SERSI?
OH MY, DID I FORGET TO TELL YOU?


TONIGHT'S AFFAIR IS GOING TO BE A COSTUME PARTY!
I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE FUN--!


A SHORT WHILE LATER--
GOOD EVENING! WELCOME!
WHOOPS! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE, EH?
IT LOOKS WONDERFUL!
YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME, MES AMIS-- THE ONLY THINGS MISSING ARE YOUR COSTUMES!


BUT MY LOST BOYS FORGOT TO MENTION COSTUMES ON THE INVITATION! AH, ME!
FEAR NOT HOWEVER!

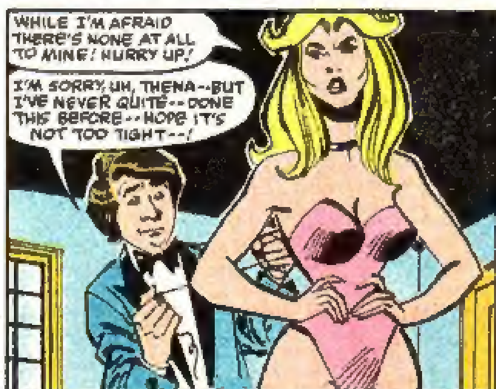

THE OVERSIGHT CAN BE REMEDIED TOUT DE SUITE!
SERS!! WHAT ON EARTH--?


RELAX, YOUR HONOR! HAVE A DRINK! THE EVENING'S JUST BEGINNING!
S-SO I SEE!


AND IN A BACK ROOM--
I MUST SAY I FIND IT-- INTRIGUING--!

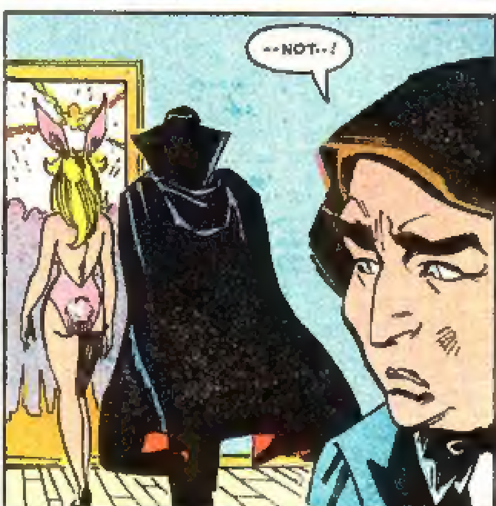

I MUST SAY, LORD KRO, THAT THE PART SUITS YOU. ALL A VAMPIRE REQUIRES IS A SUITABLE WIDOW'S PEAK, AND THEN YOU'LL BE PERFECT!
THE IMMORTAL SOULLESS PREYER ON HAPLESS HUMANS --YES.


IT'S A PART I'VE PLAYED TO ADVANTAGE!
AT LEAST THERE'S A CERTAIN DIGNITY TO YOUR GUISE, KRO.


WHILE I'M AFRAID THERE'S NONE AT ALL TO MINE! HURRY UP!
I'M SORRY, UH, THENA--BUT I'VE NEVER QUITE--DONE THIS BEFORE--HOPE IT'S NOT TOO TIGHT--!


EVERYTHING'S FINE, DAVID, YOU DID A WONDERFUL JOB.
AND YOU'RE RIGHT--NO ONE WILL BE LOOKING FOR THE RULER OF EARTH'S ETERNALS DRESSED AS A PLAYBOY BUNNY. YOU'RE A CLEVER YOUNG MAN.
UH, THANKS, THENA! I MEAN-- THANKS!


SHE IS LOVELY, DAVE CHATTERTON--BUT SHE IS NOT FOR YOU.
WHO, ME? OF COURSE NOT! NO! OF COURSE--


--NOT--!


SERSI WAS RIGHT-- WE'LL BE DIFFICULT TO PICK OUT IN THIS CROWD.


NONETHELESS, WE SHOULD SPLIT UP. WE ARE EASIER TO IDENTIFY AS A PAIR THAN ALONE.
I UNDER-STAND-- BUT YOU KNOW I'D RATHER--


-- BE WITH--?
AH! FAIR VISION!
WHO?

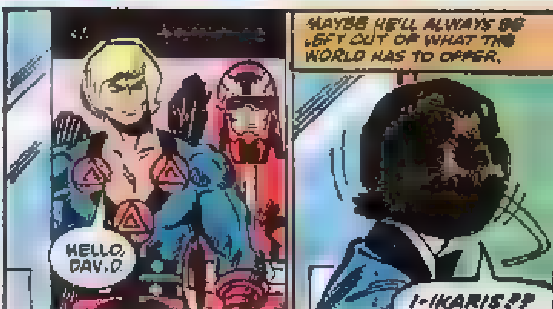

FULL OFT HAVE I TARRIED IN THAT FABLED MANSE WHERE-FROM THAT COSTUME HATH ITS ORIGIN--
--BUT E'EN SAGE HEFNER HAD NE'ER CONCEIVED A DREAM INCARNADINE AS STANDS HERE REVEALED!
W-WHO--?

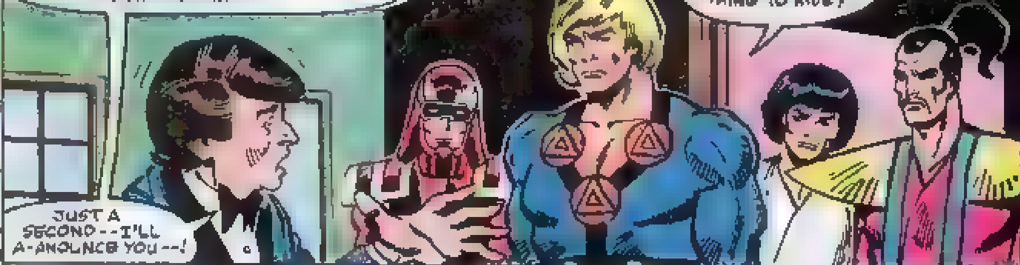

H-HERCULES?!?
THE SAME-- MADE O'ER BY SPRIGHTLY SERSI'S CRAFT!

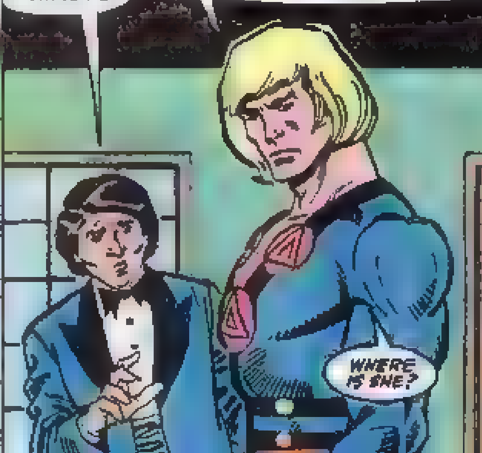

YET TELL ME, O SYLPH, WHAT MEN DO CALL THEE--THAT A GOD'S LIPS MIGHT IN SPEAKING, TASTE THAT SELFSAME NECTAR?
BETTY--BETTY SUE BIALOVSKY--!
AH! BETTY SUE-- THAT APOLLO'S CHARIOT MIGHT WRING SUCH A MUSIC FROM THE CLOUDS OF DAWN AS HE RODE THE DAY ALOFT--!

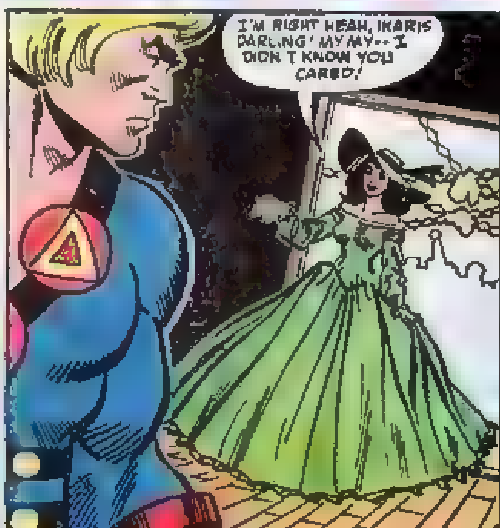

A FEW DAYS AGO, DAVE CHATTERTON HAD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BECAUSE HE FELT HE WAS ON THE OUTSIDE OF LIFE LOOKING IN. THE ATTEMPT WAS STOPPED BY SERSI. SHE HAS NOW TAKEN ON THE TASK OF SHOWING THE YOUNG MAN THAT LIFE IS WORTH LIVING.
BUT NOW HERE HE IS, MANNING THE DOOR

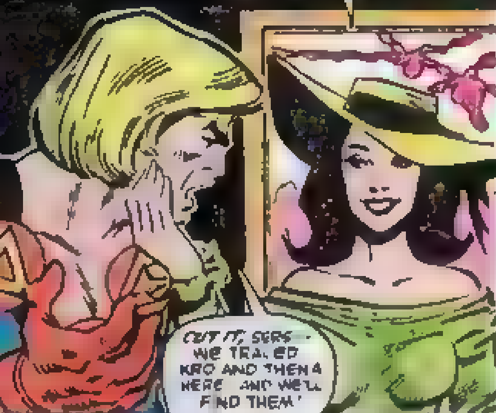

IMMORTALS -- DEVIANTS -- MAYBE NOT EVEN THEY CAN CHANGE A LOSER'S FATE.


MAYBE HE'LL ALWAYS BE LEFT OUT OF WHAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER.
HELLO, DAVID.
I-IKARIS?!

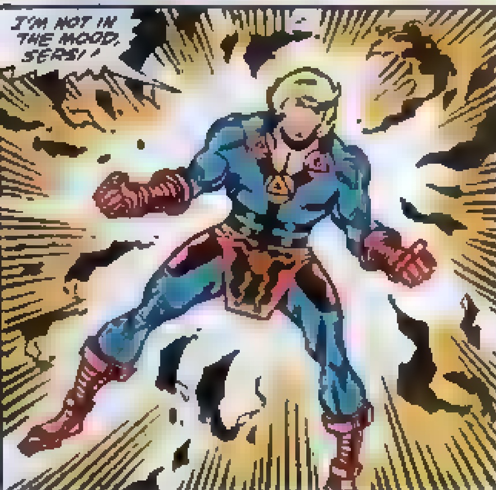

I-- I CAN EXPLAIN-- SERSI SNATCHED ME BACK FROM THE SHIP-- I'D PROMISED TO HELP HER WITH THE PARTY!
JUST A SECOND-- I'LL A-ANOUNCE YOU--!
WHY SO UPSET, DAVID? DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE?


WHO? ME? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING AB--
DON'T ATTEMPT TO LIE TO ONE WHO HAS KNOWN YOUR KIND FOR MILLENIA, DAVID. YOU KNOW WHY WE ARE HERE
WHERE IS SHE?

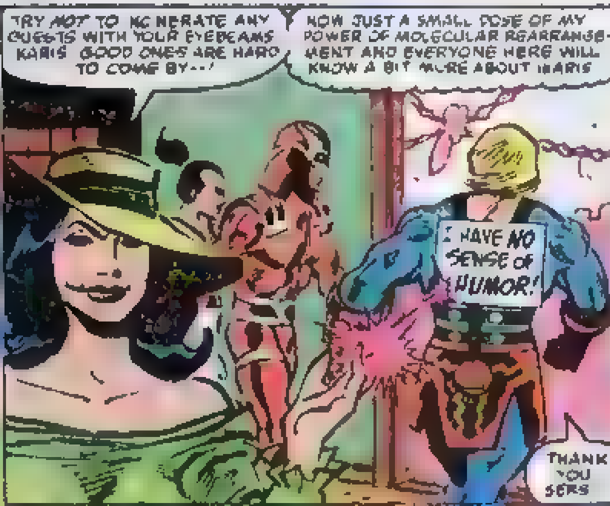

I'M RIGHT HEAH, IKARIS DARLING! MY MY-- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED!


IF I DREAMT YOU'D BE INTERESTED I'D'VE SENT YOU AN INVITATION! BUT NEVER MIND-- WELCOME AT ANY PARTY OF MINE
CUT IT, SERSI-- WE TRAILED KRO AND THENA HERE AND WE'LL FIND THEM!


WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BEAR ABOUT IT--


I'M NOT IN THE MOOD, SERSI!


THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD HINGES ON THOSE TWO--AND I'M GOING TO--
OH, VERY WELL. NOTHING'S GOING TO CONVINCE YOU THEY'RE NOT HERE. HAVE A LOOK AROUND.


TRY NOT TO INCINERATE ANY GUESTS WITH YOUR EYEBEAMS, IKARIS. GOOD ONES ARE HARD TO COME BY--!
NOW JUST A SMALL DOSE OF MY POWER OF MOLECULAR REARRANGEMENT AND EVERYONE HERE WILL KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT IKARIS
I HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR!


THIS IS THE LAST PLACE I WANT THAT CURSED WAR TO INTRUDE. AND WHAT NOW? DO I ALLOW THINGS TO PROCEED NATURALLY OR DO I INTRUDE AND EXPOSE ONE FACTION TO ANOTHER?

AND ELSEWHERE AT THE PARTY

IT HAS BEEN ENJOYABLE SO FAR --YET I DO WONDER WHY WE WERE INVITED TO A STRANGER'S PARTY.

APPARENTLY PRINCE NAMOR THE HOSTESS FOUND THE LAST VISIT THE AVENGERS MADE TO HER PARTY, ER INTERESTING* --AND SO SHE ISSUED A BLANKET INVITATION TO ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE AVENGERS MANSION!

WHICH OF COURSE INCLUDES THEIR EVER-FAITHFUL BUTLER JARVIS, YOU SLY DOG: IT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY SHE INVITED ME-- OR THESE COSTUMES!

* SEE AVENGERS #248 --SUB-MAC-INER

I COULD SAY THAT I'D BE JUST AS TICKLED TO HAVE THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL HERE AS TO HAVE THE ONE TRUE SUB MARINER MR WARREN WORTHINGTON III-- BUT THERE'S ANOTHER, MORE PERSONAL REASON.

WELL, I'LL BE-- GERSI! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE GRANDFATHER'S LAST PARTY

BUT YOU'RE AS-- YOUNG AS-- WOW.

CAREFUL WARREN YOU'LL REVEAL MY AGE! BUT I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO BRING ONE OF YOUR FELLOWS --FOR OBVIOUS REASONS

CAPTAIN AMERICA SENDS HIS REGRETS, MY LADY.

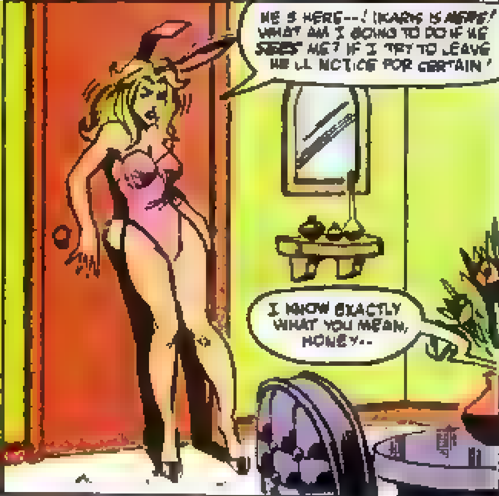
AH, ME BUT WHO CAN COMPLAIN WHEN OFFERED SUCH AN ARRAY OF DANCING PARTNERS! SHALL WE?

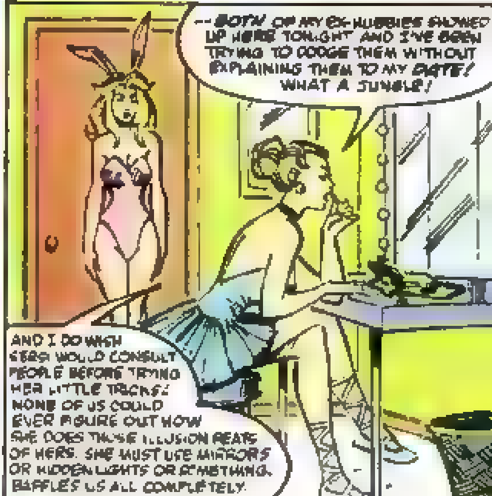
I MUST CONFESS I'M AT A LOSS WHY YOU CHOSE ME OVER MEN LIKE THE ANGEL AND PRINCE NAMOR-- I'M NOT IN THEIR CLASS, YOU KNOW!

LET ME BE MY OWN JUDGE JARVIS-- OR MAY I CALL YOU EDWIN?

I'VE NEVER LET OUTWARD SIGNS OF AGE OBSCURE MY EVALUATIONS.

AND MY EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT UNDERSTATEMENT IS OFTTIMES EVERYTHING-- EDWIN!


HE'S HERE--! IKARIS IS HERE! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF HE SEES ME? IF I TRY TO LEAVE HE'LL NOTICE FOR CERTAIN!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN, HONEY--

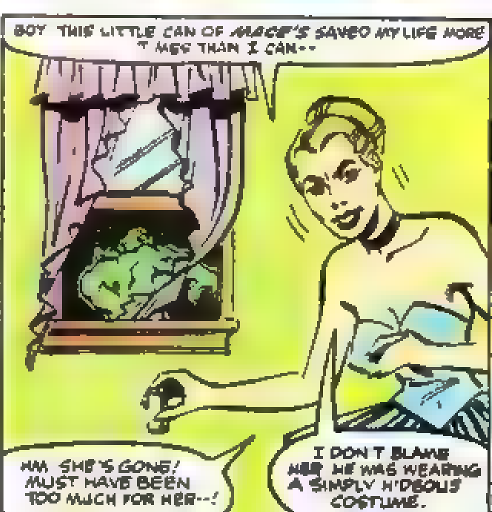

--BOTH OF MY EX-HUBBIES SHOWED UP HERE TONIGHT AND I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DODGE THEM WITHOUT EXPLAINING THEM TO MY DATE! WHAT A JUNGLE!
AND I DO WISH SERSI WOULD CONSULT PEOPLE BEFORE TRYING HER LITTLE TRICKS! NONE OF US COULD EVER FIGURE OUT HOW SHE DOES THOSE ILLUSION FEATS OF HERS. SHE MUST USE MIRRORS OR HIDDEN LIGHTS OR SOMETHING. BAFFLES US ALL COMPLETELY.

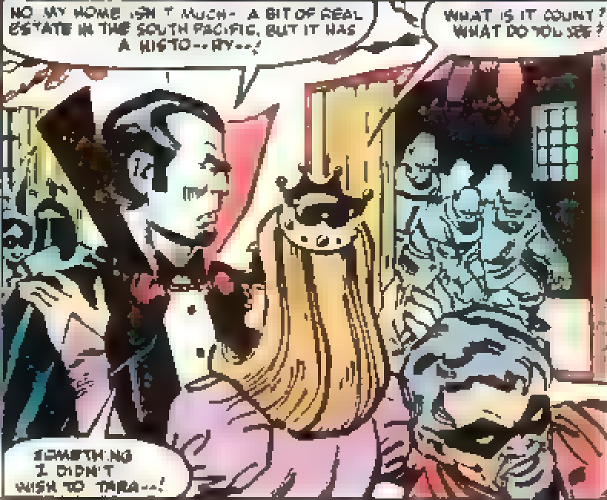

I KNOW--SHE DOES SEEM CAPABLE OF SOME UNUSUAL FEATS.
BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO? IT'S HER PARTY, AND SHE'S IN CONTROL!


IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE--EVERYTHING'S JUMBLED--THE WHOLE WORLD'S TURNED UPSIDE DOWN--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK--!
YEP--THAT'S NEW YORK FOR YOU--!

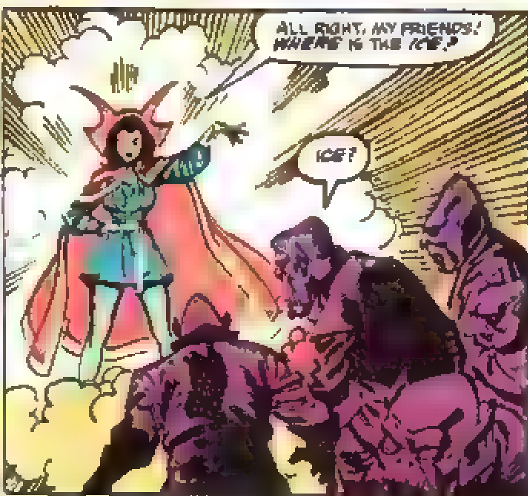

GOT YOU NOW!
NO! A DEVIANT--!
A--A WHAT?!


YARRRUN!
NO FOOLING! HAVE A FACE OF THIS, PERVERT!


BOY, THIS LITTLE CAN OF MACE'S SAVED MY LIFE MORE TIMES THAN I CAN--
HM. SHE'S GONE! MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HER--!
I DON'T BLAME HER. HE WAS WEARING A SIMPLY HIDEOUS COSTUME.


NO, MY HOME ISN'T MUCH-- A BIT OF REAL ESTATE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, BUT IT HAS A HISTO--RY--!
WHAT IS IT COUNT? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
SOMETHING I DIDN'T WISH TO TARA--!

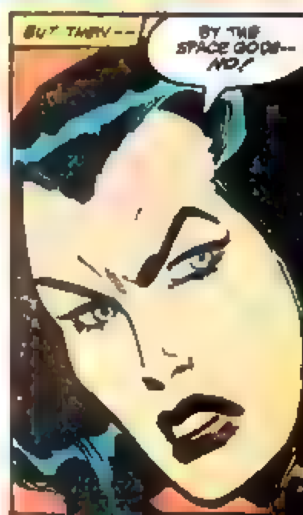

DEVIANTS, SERSI! NOW THERE ARE TWO GROUPS SEARCHING FOR KRO AND THENA... WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
BUT ANYTHING OBVIOUS WOULD DRAW MORE ATTENTION TO THEM -- AND UTTERLY RUIN MY PARTY!
BUT I DO HAVE AN IDEA--!

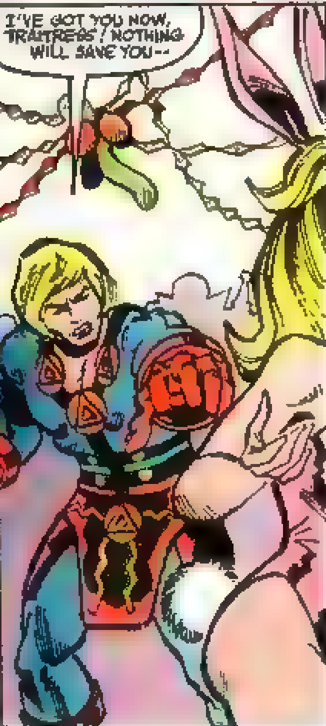

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS! WHERE IS THE ICE?
ICE?


ICE! I-C-E! ICE!
HOW ON EARTH AM I SUPPOSED TO KEEP THIS PARTY GOING WHEN YOU SHOW UP WITHOUT THE ICE?
GO!

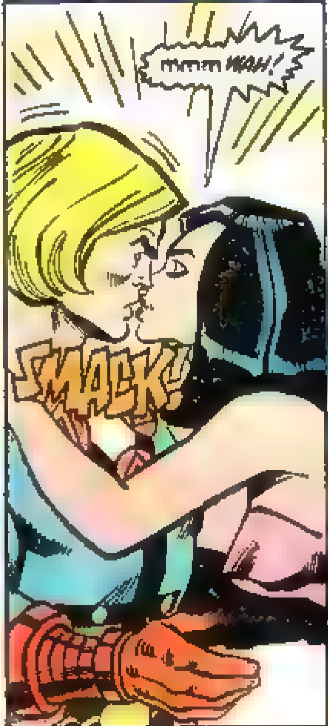

ICE--
ICE-
--AND TWO DOZEN LEMONS!
ICE--

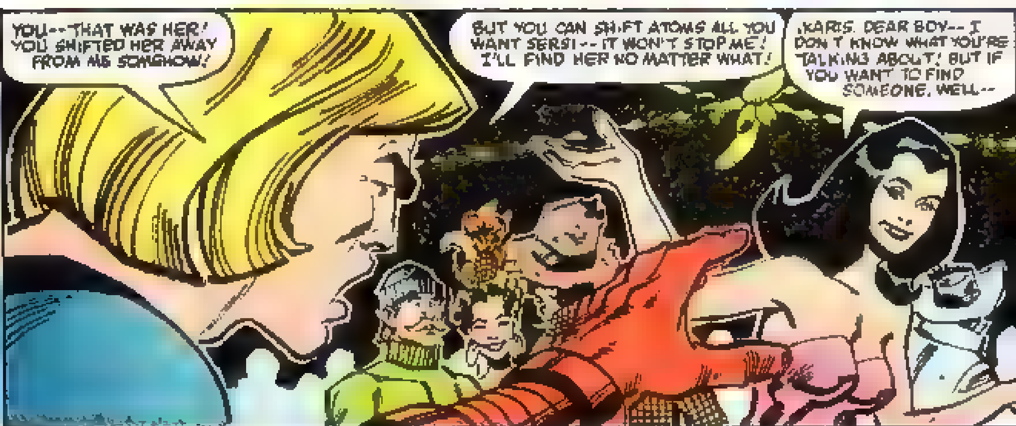

SHE SMILES -- IT'S AN OPERATION BOTH DELICATE AND DESPERATE -- AND SHE'S MANAGING TO PULL IT OFF WITH A MODICUM OF STYLE
THAT BIT OF HYPNOSIS WILL KEEP THEM OUT OF THE WAY FOR A SHORT WHILE.


BUT THEN --
BY THE SPACE GODS-- NO!


I'VE GOT YOU NOW, TRAITRESS! NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU--


--NOW?
EEEH - WHAT'S UP, DOC?


mmm WAH!
SMACK!


YOU--THAT WAS HER! YOU SHIFTED HER AWAY FROM ME SOMEHOW!
BUT YOU CAN SHIFT ATOMS ALL YOU WANT SERSI-- IT WON'T STOP ME! I'LL FIND HER NO MATTER WHAT!
IKARIS, DEAR BOY-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! BUT IF YOU WANT TO FIND SOMEONE, WELL--

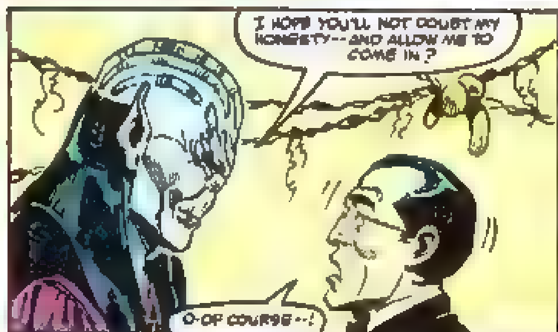

--YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!


THIS IS MADNESS. TWO BRANCHES OF HUMANITY RUSHING HEADLONG TOWARDS A WAR THAT COULD DESTROY THIS PLANET-- AND THE MAIN BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT OUT ON A DANCE-FLOOR!

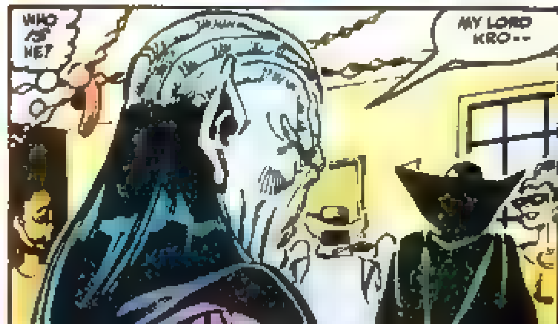

AND OUT THERE KEEPING THE PARTY RUNNING SMOOTHLY-- WHEN WE KNOW THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE ENTAILS THE FATE OF THE EARTH!
MADNESS.


I AGREE. BUT SOMETIMES A LITTLE MADNESS IS NECESSARY.
WHO--?


THE NAME IS GHAUR. DR.-- SAMUEL HOLDEN, IS IT? I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU.
SADLY, I SEEM TO HAVE MIS-PLACED MY INVITATION TO THIS DELIGHTFUL BIT OF MADNESS.


I HOPE YOU'LL NOT DOUBT MY HONESTY-- AND ALLOW ME TO COME IN?
O-OF COURSE--!


THANK YOU, DOCTOR. I SHALL REMEMBER YOUR CONSIDERATION.
[redacted] THAT-- THAT BEING IS, HE CAN ONLY MEAN MORE TROUBLE! I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH SHEER EVIL IN MY LIFE!


WHO IS HE?
MY LORD KRO--

OOH! THAT'S ONE WARM HAND YOU'VE GOT THERE, TALL DARK AND MUTATED!

I BEG YOUR PARDON. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE.

THAT'S NOT TOO HARD TO DO TONIGHT. THINGS ARE CHANGING EVERY TIME YOU LOOK AROUND! ISN'T IT GREAT?

IN FAITH, SO DOUR A MIEN AS THINE SHOULD ADORN NO FACE AT FESTIVITIES SUCH AS THESE! SOME BRIGHT NECTAR OF THE VINE WILL DO THEE GOOD, O SPECTRE AT THE FEAST!

I THANK YOU. YOU ARE HERCULES, ARE YOU NOT? WHO ONCE WAS A MAN BUT WHOM THE GODS MADE IMMORTAL?

SO THE LEGENDS WILL HAVE IT. I AM PLEASED THAT MY HUMBLE STORY HAS NOT FADED COMPLETELY.

BUT DO YOU NOT THINK THE GODS UNCOMMONLY CRUEL, FRIEND HERCULES?

CRUEL? HOW SO?

IF THEY HAVE THE POWER TO BESTOW SUCH A GIFT ON ONE, WHY THEN DO THEY DENY THE GIFT TO SO MANY?

SO MANY WHO DIE POWERLESS IN THEIR MISERABLE LOT?

AH. SUCH MYSTERIES ARE DEEP AND BEYOND MY FATHOMING! FAR BETTER TO LIVE FOR THE DAY AND FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT!

YES.

--BUT WHEN THE GODS ARE CRUEL, TWIST THEIR CREATIONS INTO HORRORS AND THEN DEEM *THAT* WISDOM AND THE ORDER OF THINGS.

THEN THEY HAVE *LOST* THE RIGHT --AND THEY BRING *MONSTERS* INTO THE WORLD.

MONSTERS THAT WILL SWALLOW THEM UP!

AND NOW YOU MUST EXCUSE ME. I SEE--A FRIEND.

BRRR! WHO WAS *THAT*?

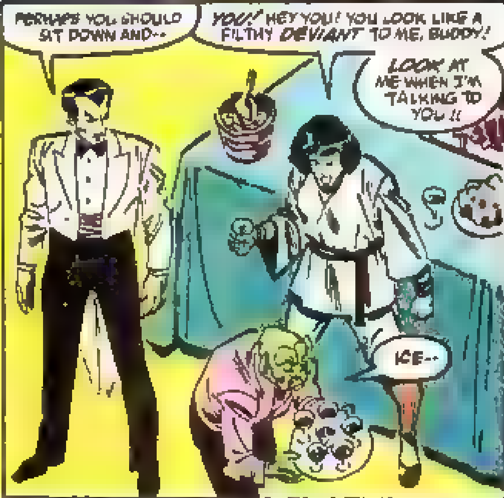
IN FAITH, I KNOW NOT--

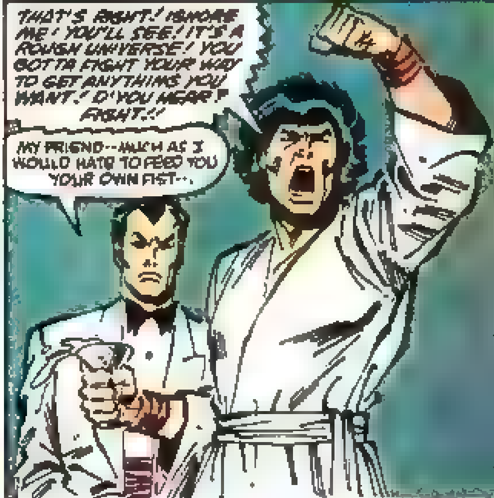
--BUT THEN, ONE NEVER GETS TO MEET *ALL* OF SERPIUS' FRIENDS!

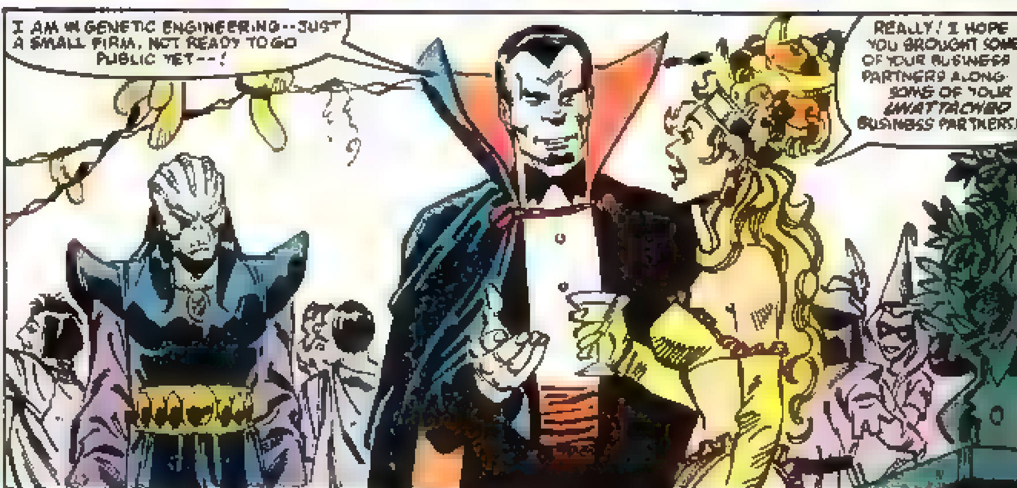
BUT HO! THE LYRE THRILLS AND THE TAMBOUR THROBS! TO THE DANCE FLOOR MY LADY!

LOOK AT THIS! STUPID! LAUGHIN, DANCIN' --WORLD'S NOT LIKE THAT! I'VE LEARNED! TAKE MY WORD FOR IT-- TH WORLD'S ROUGH! 'S A JUNGLE! I'VE LEARNED!

YOU'VE LEARNED MUCH--EXCEPT HOW TO HOLD YOUR LIQUOR, MY FRIEND!


PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN AND--
YOU!! HEY YOU! YOU LOOK LIKE A FILTHY DEVIANT TO ME, BUDDY!
LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!!
ICE--


THAT'S RIGHT! IGNORE ME! YOU'LL SEE! IT'S A ROUGH UNIVERSE! YOU GOTTA FIGHT YOUR WAY TO GET ANYTHING YOU WANT! D'YOU HEAR? FIGHT!!!
MY FRIEND--MUCH AS I WOULD HATE TO FEED YOU YOUR OWN FIST--.


I AM IN GENETIC ENGINEERING--JUST A SMALL FIRM, NOT READY TO GO PUBLIC YET--!
REALLY! I HOPE YOU BROUGHT SOME OF YOUR BUSINESS PARTNERS ALONG. SOME OF YOUR UNATTACHED BUSINESS PARTNERS!


THERE YOU ARE, MY LORD.
GHAUR


IT ENDS HERE, KRO.


KRO--HE'S BEEN FOUND! THAT GUY CAN ONLY BE A DEVIANT! THEN--EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE'LL BE FOR NOTHING! AND THERE'S NO ONE AROUND HERE TO DO ANYTHING EXCEPT ME!
YOU GOTTA CLAW AN' SCRATCH YOUR WAY TO THE TOP, AN' THEN THEY'LL KNOCK YOU DOWN AGAIN!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING NOW!


BUT I COULD GET KILLED--!


HERE! HOLD THIS!
WHAT?
THEY'LL STAB YOU INNA BACK EV'RY TIME! EV'RY SINGL' TIME! EVERY--


THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'VE HAD ALL I CAN STOMACH OUT OF YOU!


YOU--YOU DARE HIT MEEEE??


DIE!!
NOOO!


ENOUGH! HE'S GOTTEN AWAY!
SKRUNCH


YOU! YOU DARE DO THIS TO THE PERSON OF PRINCE NAMOR?


LOOK! A FIGHT!


A FIGHT??


A FIGHT! NO! MY PARTY WILL BE RUINED!

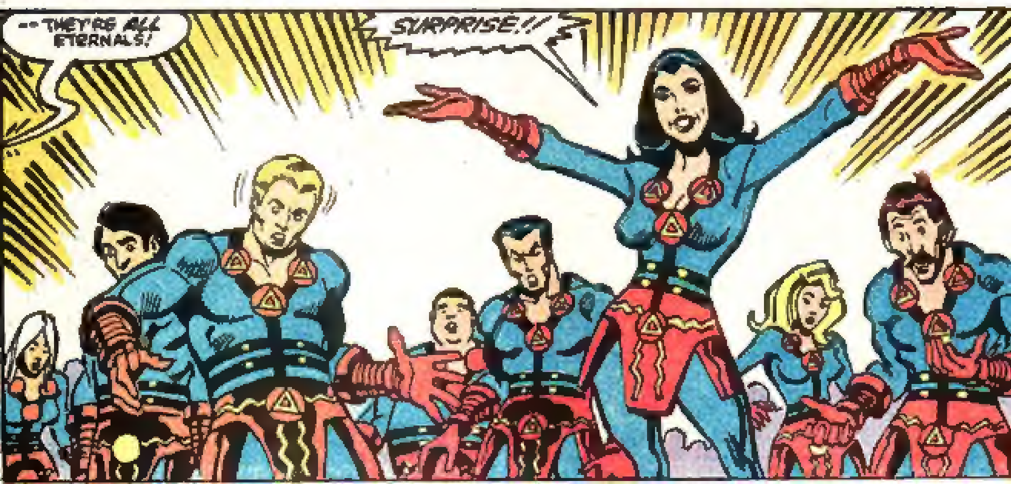

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--BUT WHAT? WHAT?


ALL TROOPS--MOVE IN AT MY COMMAND!


TAKE THEM!
WAHH-HOOOO!


THAT DOES IT! I'LL NOT TOLERATE PARTY-CRASHERS AT MY AFFAIR! THIS MUST CEASE!
TAKE WHOMEVER YOU DESIRE, DEVIANTS--


--IF YOU DARE!
NO! NO!
WE CAN'T FACE THEM! THEY'RE--


--THEY'RE ALL ETERNALS!
SURPRISE!!













NEXT: **"YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?"**